

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated July 13, 2005. Claims 1 to 5, 9 to 14, 18 to 23, and 27 are pending in the application, of which Claims 1, 10 and 19 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

As an initial matter, Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication that Claims 8, 17 and 26 contain allowable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 1 to 7, 9, 10 to 16, 18, 19 to 24, 25, 27 and 61 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over JP 07248889. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

Independent Claim 1 has been amended to include the features of claims 6, 7 and 8 in accordance with the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter for Claim 8, and Claims 6, 7 and 8 have been canceled. Therefore, Applicant submits that Claim 1 is now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests same.

Independent Claim 10 has been amended to include the features of claims 15, 16 and 17 in accordance with the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter for Claim 17, and Claims 15, 16 and 17 have been canceled. Therefore, Applicant submits that Claim 10 is now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests same.

Independent Claim 19 has been amended to include the features of claims 24, 25 and 26 in accordance with the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter for

Claim 26, and Claims 24, 25 and 26 have been canceled. Therefore, Applicant submits that Claim 19 is now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests same.

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed allowable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the allowability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, CA office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Frank L. Cire', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

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